

A TERRIBLE DISASTER.

EXPLOSION OF A BOILER IN A CROWDED MANUFACTORY.

Total Destruction of the Building and All Therein—Two Hundred and Fifty Lives Reported Lost.

New York, Dec. 20, 5:30 p. m.—About 5 o'clock the boiler under the sidewalk of Greenfield & Straus's manufacturing confectionery firm, No. 65 Barclay street, exploded, the shock threw down the building, a four-story, burying everything beneath it, and crushing a team of horses and tramping standing in front of the building.

Some two hundred girls were employed in the establishment, besides a number of men and boys. Most of these were preparing to leave the building, and were in the street, but the larger portion of them were still in the building at the time the explosion occurred, and at this writing the loss of life, though unknown, is supposed to be very large.

The fire is extending and the entire block will likely be destroyed.

Later.

A p. m.—The fire on Barclay street now seems to have subsided, and the bodies of over three hundred persons were in the building at the time of the explosion, and that not over fifty got out, and they were more or less wounded by falling timbers, etc.

The New York Horror—Tardy Arrival of the Firemen—Excitement Throughout the City.

New York, Dec. 20.—At 1:10 o'clock this evening a terrible report shook the vicinity of Barclay street and College Place. The streets in the vicinity were crowded at the time by all classes, and a rushing fire engine, with a large number of men, and a fireman, in his shirt sleeves, was carried off about 1 a. m., but no bodies have been discovered.

The scene which followed the explosion was one that baffles description. Thousands of people, lying in all directions, uttering shrieks of despair, and a more horrible scene is seldom witnessed. One young girl, with long hair, held her hands beseechingly out of the third story window and screamed for help until she fell from the window and was buried in the burning cloud below.

It was now nearly fifteen minutes since the explosion, and having been promptly sounded, the fire department had not yet arrived.

The Girls Were Now Hysterical Frantic and one girl jumped from a second story window, while three jumped into the burning building and were soon out of their misery. While the girls were screaming and crying, the windows, two officers broke the fall of one and she saved her life, although she met with serious injuries.

The fire patrol and engines now began to arrive and soon had streams of water on the building. About half past 8 o'clock the whole iron front of the building was carried up.

Like so Much Paper.

and fell right across the street with a fearful thud, striking the houses on the opposite side. It was rumored that over one hundred and fifty persons, men, girls and boys, were employed in the building, and that only about one-half had escaped.

Several alarms were sounded for assistance, as the fire had communicated to the surrounding buildings, and at the same time ambulances were sent for. The first to arrive was the first to arrive, and then followed No. 6.

A Rescue.

Soon after the latter engine arrived a woman started screaming for help in the third story of the burning building, and a woman who has a front also on College Place, James McGowan, who was recently awarded the Bennett medal for saving life at fire, at once rushed to her rescue. He went up to the roof of the burning building, and although the feat was at the risk of his life, he succeeded in fighting the flames and smoke, rescued the woman and passed her to the fire below. He then went to the roof of a third-story window, when the western wall fell, but McGowan escaped with a few bruises.

Another Horrifying Scene.

ensued that melted the hearts of the bystanders. A boy about thirteen years of age was seen holding on to the burning shelving until he was killed, and amid groans from the crowd fell into the flames.

The fire had now extended to the adjoining buildings, and the heat was so intense from the burning molasses and sweetmeats that it was with great difficulty that the firemen could stand it.

At the time of the explosion a man employed by Adams Express Company was with the shipping clerk and two laborers loading one of the large express trucks. The men were blown into the air, the horses killed and the wagon and freight scattered into fragments.

On the opposite side of Barclay street was a store where large quantities of petroleum were stored, and the flames extended so quickly that it was all the firemen could do to prevent the flames from crossing the street.

Forty minutes after the fire broke out the interior of the building had fallen in, and buried beneath its ruins those who had fled, as well as the bodies of those who had been suffocated.

A Hundred Rumors.

filled the air, and it was reported that several firemen had been buried, but the report could not be confirmed. In the meantime the bodies remained, together with the wounded and maimed, were carried to the hospital, Greenwich street, and to Hall & Ruckel's drug store, where the ambulances were busy carrying off the dead.

All the evening the excitement throughout the city was intense, and large crowds congregated around the bulletin boards, and eager inquiring for missing ones.

At this hour, 10 p. m., it is impossible to state the number of persons who were killed, but it is supposed the loss of life would be considerable, and may be several days before the full extent of the calamity can be known.

Midnight Report—Removing the Debris and Searching for the Dead.

New York, Dec. 20, 12 p. m.—Up to this hour, midnight, the three-story building had been carried away from the ruins. No estimate can be made of those buried under the debris, but it is believed by some that the number is not very large. But few persons were inquiring for missing relatives and friends. Others think the number buried under the walls and the debris is not made for them, because many of the employees had no regular homes and consequently no friends or relatives are on the lookout for them.

Even at this hour reports vary widely as to the number of persons who were engaged in the buildings destroyed, and the number of killed and wounded. It was at first reported that there were 300 employees, and only about fifty were known to have escaped unhurt, making the killed and wounded as high as 250.

Other reports brought the number of employees down to 250, and the killed and wounded to 100 or 150. At this hour people living in the neighborhood of the scene of destruction put the number of the killed and wounded at 150 to 200, and the killed and wounded at 50 to 100.

It was hours before anything could be done in the way of removing the debris, as the firemen and assistants had to wait until the fire was extinguished, and the flames to the five buildings burned.

By reference to the advertisement of the grand oratorical of "Elijah" to be given Saturday evening, it will be seen that reserved seats can be secured in the second tier for \$1, and admittance to the gallery is only 50 cents.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

CASE OF SENATOR PATTERSON—PROBABLE END OF THE MATTER.

The Resolution to Report the Evidence Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 20.—The State Senate yesterday referred to the Committee on Federal Relations the concurrent resolution relative to the joint investigating committee to report the evidence in their possession upon which indictments have been found against All J. Patterson, in the case which it might be forwarded to the Senate of the United States. It is not likely that the Committee on Federal Relations will report during the present session, as the joint investigating committee has this troublesome matter has now been settled finally, if indirectly.

The Steamship Huntsville Burned at Sea—No Lives Lost.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The steamship Huntsville, Capt. Faircloth, from Savannah December 19, No. lives were lost. The crew were picked up by the pilot boat Washington No. 22, and brought to this city.

Capt. Faircloth makes the following statement: Left Savannah for New York December 16, at 3:30 p. m.; Tuesday, the 18th, at 8 a. m., sighted Cape Hatteras, and bore west, wind northeast, at a choppy sea; Wednesday, the 19th, at 10 a. m., latitude 35° 30' N., longitude 74° 30' W., bore north, wind at 9:45 p. m. light E. by N. harbor, bore north west half west, distance ten miles, met the steam and deck pumps given out, and stopped the main engine. In about seven minutes fire came from the after part of the hold, above the deck, and in a few minutes the main entrance on Barclay street, as the flames burst forth immediately, and there must have been a large number of bodies buried in the ruins, as no escape was made through the roof of the building, and the bodies were not recovered.

At least twelve or fifteen persons were seen to escape over the roof, but few were seen to escape from the building, and the bodies were not recovered.

Although there were a large number of people in the building at the time, but few could give details concerning the calamity, as they were so much excited, and many of them were so much injured, that they were unable to give any reliable information.

At this hour, 2:45 a. m., a large force of firemen are at work on the ruins, and it is thought that nothing new will be known until late in the morning.

CAPITAL NEWS.

Qualifications Necessary to Secure a Surgeon's Position in the Russian Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Numerous letters have been addressed to the Minister of the United States at St. Petersburg, asking for information as to the qualifications necessary to secure an appointment to obtain the position of surgeon in the imperial army of Russia. Mr. Baker, his special agent, in the Department of State, has in reply to the inquiries, advised that the law of Russia, which it is understood has not been relaxed during the present war, is that no one shall be the post of surgeon in the Russian army until he has passed a course of medical school in Russia; that he shall be able to pass a severe examination before a board of the Russian surgeons, and that he shall be able to speak the Russian language, and that he shall receive his commission as surgeon in the Russian army.

Under these circumstances it will be perceived that no citizen of the United States who has not received a medical education in Russia is eligible to the position of surgeon in the Russian army. Some medical men have applied for temporary posts as volunteer surgeons, and have been accepted, but not by the Russian authorities or by the societies of the Red Cross. The pay of surgeons in such positions is, however, very low, and they are not considered as being in the service of the Russian government, but are engaged in a spirit of philanthropy, and almost wholly for the benefit of the wounded and suffering.

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WAR NOTES.

ENGLAND'S ATTITUDE—DAILY MEETINGS OF THE BRITISH CABINET.

England To Be Put in Readiness for War—Excitement in the Stock Market—Press Comments.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—A cable special to the Tribune, dated London, December 20, says: Meetings of the British Cabinet are held daily, and the press impression is that preparations for war are in progress.

At Woolwich and other arsenals orders have been received to stop the discharge of men, and to take back those discharged under previous orders.

While war may not be intended, there is absolutely no doubt whatever that England is to be in a readiness to meet any emergency that may arise.

The London stock market yesterday opened very excited, with a sudden fall in English securities, showing the present feeling.

The Daily News says editorially that the last meeting of the meeting of Parliament is for war preparations.

The Times says money is to be asked to increase the army to a strength of not less than 300,000 men.

The Telegraph asks if England is to wait for leave to defend the safeguards of her commerce and the dictates of her national honor.

Other papers adopt nearly the same tone, and all are in favor of some important step has already been taken by the cabinet, either in the form of a protest to Russia against another campaign, or orders to the British fleet to go to Gampah.

Russian and Servian Successes.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Gen. Gourko has taken Berdibaz, the direct route to Sofia, and the Servians have carried a strongly fortified position at Mialor, advancing to the siege of Niseh and Widlan.

Suleiman Retreats and the Russians Advance.

Suleiman Pasha is in full retreat and the Russians have advanced to Ahmedli.

England Cannot Mediate.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The British government has declared that it is unable to mediate, owing to the views of the other Powers.

Impossible for the Russians to Cross the Balkans.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A dispatch from Bucharest says that it is impossible for the Russians to cross the Balkans, as they are covered with two feet of snow.

Roumania Congratulated.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Emperor William has congratulated Roumania on the progress of her troops.

England Growth Inquisitive.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg says England has inquired of Russia as to what are her intentions after she has crossed the Balkans.

FOREIGN NEWS.

ENGLAND.

The Times on the Eastern Question—Further Acquisitions in Egypt Advocated.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Times in its leading article this morning indicates some indications of the writer's belief that Parliament will be asked to vote money for the purchase of a further extension of the Egyptian empire, which might be two purchases possible, namely, the Khedive's remaining interest in the Suez Canal, and the Khedive's suzerainty over Egypt.

The Times says that the Egyptian empire is in the situation of the belligerents since Lord Derby's speech to the deputation representing the Society for the Protection of British Interests and other political societies, which was given in the House of Commons on Monday last, and says that all the arguments against interference then remain good now.

The prospect of Great Britain is not endangered. At the same time there are interests not threatened by the progress of the war, except so far as the cohesion of the whole Ottoman empire is threatened, which might be more strongly protected than they are by acts not in any degreeavoring of the character of war.

We are not going to allow our interests to be bound up with the maintaining of the Ottoman empire in its integrity or independence.

The communications the Ministers will have to make in both houses are not inspired by any error, which now disturbs the mental vision and distracts the judgment of so many.

FRANCE.

Attempted Assassination.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—An attempt has been made to murder the Archbishop of Rheims.

ITALY.

Reported Death of the Queen.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A correspondent in Rome telegraphs that the Countess Mirafiori, wife of King Victor Emmanuel, is reported dead in Turin. The King starts thither to-day.